

## Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 L-03 H-02 NSC-05 PPT-01 SCCT-01 SY-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 EUR-12 SS-15 /076 W

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R 041200Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5623

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US (HUGHES, EDWARD)

SUBJ: CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE ON DEPORTATION OF U.S. CITIZEN  
EDWARD HUGHES

REF: STATE 182164.

1. AUGUST 3 EDITION OF DAILY STAR, BEIRUT'S ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWS-  
PAPER, CARRIES ARTICLE RE HUGHES' EXPULSION. FULL SUMMARY FOLLOWS:

2. ACCORDING ARTICLE, HUGHES WROTE TO DAILY STAR FIRDAY DENYING HE  
ISRAELI AGENT. IN LETTER HUGHES EXPLAINED HE ON READERS DIGEST  
ASSIGNMENT, TWO WEEKS IN SYRIA AND TEN DAYS IN LEBANON, INTER-  
VIEWING CABINET MINISTERS AND PLO OFFICIALS. AT SECURITY  
POLICE HEADQUARTERS HIGH OFFICIAL ACCUSED HIM  
AS MEMBER OF ISRAELI ASSASSINATION SQUAD THAT KILLED THREE  
PROMINENT PALESTINIANS IN BEIRUT (APRIL 10, 1973)  
AND TOLD HIM THAT INFORMANT REPORTED HE HAD RESIDED IN ISRAEL FOR  
PAST TWO YEARS. SENIOR OFFICIAL TOLD DAILY STAR SATURDAY THAT  
HUGHES NOT REPEAT NOT ACCUSED OF BEING ISRAELI AGENT, BUT RATHER  
THAT HE HAD STAYED ABOUT TWO YEARS IN ISRAEL, A CHARGE WHICH  
HUGHES ADMITTED. OFFICIALAAL EXPLAINED THAT UNDER ARAB  
LEAGUE RULING, VISITORS OF ISRAEL NOT ALLOWED CROSS INTO  
ARAB COUNTRIES, A RULING OBSERVED HERE BUT WHICH OTHER  
ARAB COUNTRIES MAY BE BREADING. OFFICIAL STATED HE DID NOT  
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UNDERSTAND WHY HUGHES CLAIMED LEBANESE ACCUSED HIM OF SPYING OR

INVOLVEMENT IN 1973 ATTACK, AS ANY DOUBTS OF THIS NATURE WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN REFERRAL TO INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE RATHER THAN DEPORTATION.

3. ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT IN PARIS, DIGEST EUROPEAN EDITOR JOHN D. PANITZA DESCRIBED ALLEGATIONS AS ASTONISHING AND WITHOUT FOUNDATION, AS HE COULD CONFIRM THAT HUGHES RESIDED AND WORKED IN UK AND EUROPE THROUGH 18 MONTHS AND NOT IN ISRAEL. AS FOR ASSASSINATION CHARGE, PANITZA CONFIRMED THAT HUGHES IN MIDDLE EAST AT TIME BUT ON DIGEST ASSIGNMENT WHICH HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH TRAGIC AND VIOLENT INCIDENT. ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY STATING THAT HUGHES SAID LEBANESE INTERROGATORS AT FIRST SEEMED DETERMINED FILE FORMAL ESPIONAGE CHARGES BUT AFTER COUPLE HOURS BEGAN TALKING OF SENDING HIM OUT OF COUNTRY INSTEAD. WHEN ASKED WHY, THEY MERELY SHRUGGED. HUGHES SPECULATED INTERROGATORS SIMPLY ANXIOUS TO LEAVE FOR MOUNTAINS TO ESCAPE HEAT. HUGHES THEN GIVEN TIME PACK BAGS AND TAKEN TO AIRPORT FOR NEXT FLIGHT TO EUROPE.

4. COMMENT: LEBANON DOES INDEED ENFORCE LETTER OF ARAB LEAGUE RULING, BUT IN OUR EXPERIENCE ONLY WHEN TRAVELER'S PASSPORT CONTAINS ISRAELI MARKINGS. IN THESE CASES, HAVE NEARLY ALWAYS SHOWN FLEXIBILITY BY PERMITTING TRAVELER PROCEED TO EMBASSY WITHOUT PASSPORT TO OBTAIN QUOTE CLEAN END QUOTE PASSPORT WHICH HE PERMITTED NORMAL ENTRY. LEBANESE DO NOT REPEAT NOT NORMALLY ATTEMPT APPLY RULING EXCEPT WHEN CONFRONTED WITH ISRAELI MARKINGS IN PASSPORT.

5. SUGGEST PRESS GUIDANCE IN REFTEL BE FURTHER AMENDED TO INSERT WORD ALLEGED BEFORE QUOTE TWO-YEAR RESIDENCE IN ISRAEL END QUOTE. GODLEY

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE ON DEPORTATION OF U.S. CITIZEN EDWARD HUGHES  
**TAGS:** PFOR, LE, US, (HUGHES, EDWARD)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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